

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Patrick Feeley. I am a resident of New Haven and am testifying to communicate my strong support for Connecticut SB 753, *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining Legislative Districts*.

I have resided in Connecticut for the past 21 years of my life. Since I turned 18, I have been a register voter in Connecticut and experienced my vote holding less weight from prison gerrymandering in other CT districts. Through securing the passage of this bill, Connecticut's elections will be an improved representation of Connecticut's electorate.

Stopping the practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the districts in which their correctional facilities are located is imperative to increasing the representativeness of Connecticut's General Assembly. The counting of incarcerated persons, the vast majority of whom cannot vote, as members of the legislative districts in which their carceral facilities are located affords inappropriate electoral power to said districts. Moreover, incarcerated persons who can vote must do so in the districts where they lived prior to incarceration. The status quo inaccurately invests legislative authority and exacerbates racial inequities in government, given that Connecticut districts housing correctional facilities have a far higher proportion of white voters than compared to local incarcerated populations.

Counting incarcerated persons in the district where their correctional facilities are located dilutes the voting power of inmates' home districts. This is a fundamental threat to voting rights. Furthermore, state representative's do not focus on correctional facilities throughout election campaigns. Incarcerated people deserve the same vote rights that non-incarcerated people experience.

Every Connecticut voter deserves equal representation in the state legislature. I ask the committee to consider passing S.B. 753 to enshrine that same principle in law.

Sincerely,

Patrick Feeley
New Haven, CT